Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 M-03 NEA-10 SCA-01 OC-06

RSR-01 /091 W

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R 261442 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5834 INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY SOFIA AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL HELSINKI 0781

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CPAS LY FI

SUBJECT: LIBYA REFUSES VISA TO FINNISH AMBASSADOR

PRESENTING CREDENTIALS

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: (A) SOFIA 3 13; (B) STATE 10425; (C) STATE 27051

BEGIN SUMMARY. FINNISH AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO, ALSO NEWLY APPOINTED TO TRIPOLI, WAS RECENTLY REFUSED VISA TO LIBYA TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS. FINNS HAVE NOT YET BUT MAY CLOSE MISSION IN TRIPOLI, WHICH IS ONE- MAN POST HEADED BY COMMERICAL ATTACHE. FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON HOW LIBYAN REGULATIONS HAVE AFFECTED US AND OTHERS AND WHAT COUNTERMEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN. FINNS ARE ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE IN ANY JOINT EFFORT TO END THE LIBYAN REQUIREMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT APPROPRIATE INFORMATION BE PROVIDED THE FINNS AND THAT THEY BE INCLUDED IN ANY CONTEMPLATED COORDINATION OF COUNTERMEASURES. END SUMMARY.

1. FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS CONFIRMED REPORT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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REFTEL (A) THAT FINNISH AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, PEKKA MALINEN, WHO HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED AGREMENT AS AMBASSADOR ALSO TO LIBYA, WAS REFUSED A LIBYAN VISA SEVERAL DAYS AGO WHEN HE INTENDED TO TRAVEL TO TRIPOLI TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS.
LIBYAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO WOULD NOT ISSUE THE VISA BECAUSE MALINEN'S PASSPORT DID NOT CONTAIN PERSONAL DATA IN ARABIC. IN JANUARY A FINNISH BUSINESSMAN HA THE WHOLE, UNDERPLAYED EXTENT OF AALC/FO COOPERATION IN FRENCH SPEAKING AFRICA. HE GAVE 2 1/2 MILLION DOLLAR FIGURE AS AALC ANNUAL BUDGET OF WHICH 2/3 IS PROVIDED BY AID AND 1/3 BY AFL-CIO AND AFFILIATED UNIONS. HE ESTIMATED AT 20-25 PERCENT PORTION OF AFL-CIO BUDGET DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BUT REFUSED TO GIVE ABSOLUTE FIGURE IN DOLLARS.

- 3. EUROPEAN UNIONS. HE DENIED CATEGORICALLY THAT AFL- CIO IS PROVIDING ANY ASSISTANCE TO ANY EUROPEAN UNIONS AND WHEN PRESSED BY GELLY HE ADMITTED INDIRECTLY THAT THIS DID NOT APPLY TO THE PAST
- 4. ETUC. HE MET HEAD ON WHAT WAS ON HOST S' MINDS BY SAYING CLEARLY THAT AFL- CIO WAS NOT PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE DROPPING OF WORD "FREE" FROM ETUC TITLE. HE STRESSED THAT AFL- CIO REMAINS AS COMMITTED AS EVER TO PRINCIPLE OF TRADE UNION FREEDOM "FROM GOVERNMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, CHURCH AND, OF COURSE, EMPLOYERS". HE ATTRIBUTED TUC (UK) ATTITUDE TO INTERNAL CONFLICTS WHICH HAVE PUT TUC PRESIDENT FEATHER IN DIFFICULT POSITION. GELLY ASKED HOW BROWN EXPLAINED SCANDANIVIAN AND BELGIAN UNIONS VOTE ON QUESTION ETUC TITLE SINCE THESE DO NOT FACE SAME INTERNAL PROBLEMS AS TUC. BROWN'S ANSWER WAS THAT OBVIOUSLY THESE UNIONS UNDERESTIMATE IMPORTANCE OF WORD "FREE" WHICH IS GOOD GROUNDS FOR AFL- CIO DISAGREEMENT WITH THEM.
- 5. MULTINATIONAL FIRMS. HE CLAIMED AFL- CIO WAS AMONG FIRST UNIONS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON MNFS AND REFERRED TO REPEATED RESOLUTIONS URGING CONGRESS TO CANCEL TAX BENEFITS ENJOYED BY MNFS. HE DENIED THAT AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT IS BECOMING "PROTECTIONIST" AND URGED THAT EMPLOYERS AND UNIONS BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, INCLUDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GATT, CALLED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. GELLY ASKED HOW AFL- CIO COULD HOPE TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE ACTION IN DEALING WITH MNFS IN FRANCE AND ITALY WITHOUT COOPERATION OF CGT AND CGIL. BROWN CONCEDED THAT THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE. IT WILL SIMPLY TAKE LONGER.

- 6. CFDT. "WE DISAGREE WITH SOME OF POSITIONS TAKEN BY CFDT AND ESPECIALLY WITH ITS UNITY OF ACTION STRATEGY." (THIS WAS CLEAR REFERENCE TO CFDT'S UNITY OF ACTION AGREEMENT WITH CGT SINCE DECEMBER 1970.) HE "REGRETTED" THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO COORDINATION BETWEEN CFDT AND FO. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTION, AGAIN FROM GELLY, BROWN SAID WITHOUT HESITATION THAT "CFDT WAS A FREE TRADE UNION".
- 7. BERGERON/ MEANY MEETING (PARIS 06838). HE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO DISABUSE HIS HOSTS OF THEIR ASSUMPTION THAT BERGERON/ MEANY MEETING WOULD FOCUS ON OTHER MATTERS IN ADDITION TO MONETARY PROBLEMS. HE DID POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE ARE NOT SMALL MATTERS
 AND BY THEMSELVES COULD HAVE WARRANTED MEETING OF " TWO FREE LABOR LEADERS."
- 8. FRENCH LABOR MOVEMENT. AFTER MAKING CLEAR RESERVATIONS THAT HE WAS TALKING AS A TRADE UNIONIST OBSERVER WITHOUT SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF INTERVENING IN FRENCH INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FRENCH LABOR MOVEMENT HAS YET TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ITS PRIMARY TASK, NAMELY OF BECOMING A STRONG MASS LABOR ORGANIZATION BASED ON DUES- PAYING MEMBERSHIP. WITHOUT MUSCLE OF MEMBERS AND ADEQUATE FINANCES, UNIONS CANNOT DEAL AS EQUALS WITH INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE EMPLYERS. "THE DAY ANY FRENCH UNION BE IT CGT, CFDT OR FO, SUCCEEDS IN THIS TASK, THERE WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE AND FREE LABOR MOVEMENT IN FRANCE." AGAIN GELLY INJECTED THAT WHEN THAT DAY COMES THE FRENCH UNIONS WILL FORM AN ORGANIZATION LIKE AALC TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AMERICAN UNIONS.
- 9. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THAT
 " LEGENDARY" BROWN HAS MET FRENCH PRESS. WHILE ATMOSPHERE WAS
 RELAXED AND QUITE PROFESSIONAL, MEETING UNDOUBTEDLY SERVED NOTICE
 TO COMMUNISTS THAT AFL- CIO INTENDS TO REMAIN ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL FIELD NOTWITHSTANDING DISAFFILIATION FROM ICFTU. IT WILL
 BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW AJIS REPORTERS WILL REPORT INTERVIEW
 AND ESPECIALLY WHAT LINE L'HUMANITE AND VIE OUVRIERE WILL TAKE.
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10. NO ONE ASKED BROWN WHETHER HE PLANS
TO MOVE TO PARIS, AS HAS BEEN RUMORED IN SOME CIRCLES.
HE TOLD LABATT THAT AFL- CIO IS GIVING THIS MATTER SERIOUS THOUGHT
BUT THAT FINAL DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE YET.
DECONTROL FOLLOWING 3/23/74
IRWIN

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^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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SECSTATE WASHDC

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